

The Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research



Akron Children's Hospital
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Baystate Children's Hospital
Boston Children's Hospital
Children's of Alabama
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Children's Hospital Colorado
Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Children's Mercy Hospital
Children's National Medical Center

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
LeBonheur Children's Hospital
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Nemours Children's Health System
Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital
Primary Children's Hospital
Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital
Seattle Children's
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
St. Louis Children's Hospital
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
University of Iowa Children's Hospital

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

May 18, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research, an alliance of our nation's leading children's hospitals and pediatric research institutions, we are writing to thank you for including provisions to strengthen and enhance our nation's commitment to pediatric research, particularly Sec. 1081, within the 21st Century Cures Initiative. Given this level of support for pediatric research, the Coalition for Pediatric Medical Research is most pleased to endorse this legislation.

Sec. 1081 will continue the leadership of the Energy & Commerce Committee by helping to drive forward the implementation of the National Pediatric Research Network Act. This law (PL 113-55), was advanced by the committee in 2013 and will help propel pediatric research through the use of a network of multi-site research consortia. This approach, modeled upon other successful networked research programs, will leverage advancements in technology to drive collaboration among researchers to accelerate the pace of discovery and to deliver improved treatments to our nation's children.

In addition to Sec. 1081, the Coalition applauds you for including other pediatric-oriented provisions, including ones to advance global pediatric clinical trials and to reauthorize the pediatric rare disease voucher program. We also commend you for reauthorizing the National Institutes of Health (NIH), for authorizing increased appropriations for the NIH for Fiscal Years 2016 through 2018 and for creating and funding at \$10 billion over five years through the NIH Innovation Fund.

It is for these reasons, especially the inclusion of Sec. 1081, that the Coalition is pleased to endorse the 21st Century Cures Initiative. We urge you to retain these critical provisions as this legislation moves forward and to insist that Sec. 1081 in particular be included in any final conference agreement.

Sincerely,

David A. Williams, MD
Chair, Division of Hematology/Oncology
Director of Clinical and Translational Research
Boston Children's Hospital

Peggy Hostetter, MD
Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Director, Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation
Cincinnati Children's Hospital medical Center

William W. Hay, Jr., MD
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Scientific Director, Perinatal Research Center
Co-Director for Child and Maternal Health, Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute
University of Colorado School of Medicine and Children's Hospital Colorado

CC: The Honorable Diana DeGette
The Honorable Joe Pitts
The Honorable Gene Green